

Candidates on track for a great future

Music reporter **Vicki McCarthy** interviews the new band Candidates, who are looking forward to gigs at Silverstone racetrack and more...



Photo courtesy of Richard Hedge



The SCENE

Following on from last month's column, I'm chuffed that festival season's still in full-swing.

In fact, I write this today, suffering the aches, sunburn and sleep deprivation from attending Download Festival!

With that great weekend over, I'm now looking ahead to the rest of summer, specifically for our vibrant and diverse local music scene here in Milton Keynes and surrounding areas.

I recently met Steve, Jimi, Paul and Neil from Candidates, one of MK's newest bands, who are also looking forward to a packed few months of live music events, mainly as it involves them playing at them!

Formed in summer 2017, Candidates are in their words, "Made up of a Punk bassist, a Metal drummer with two 90s Indie-loving guitarists!"

It sounds like it shouldn't work, but it really does, the

followers they've amassed and the bookings taken are proof I reckon!

"Oh yeah, we had five gigs booked before we'd even picked up our instruments!" laughed Paul.

Five gigs, for a newly-formed band, how?

"We've all been in other bands," Steve explained.

"Two of our previous bands, The Vision and Blue Cabs were known on the circuit and I think it gave people confidence in us before we'd actually started making music."

So a reputation and a tight network of music-lovers paid dividends, but that's just the start. Earlier this year, Candidates supported Scouse Indie legends Space, while this month sees the band play at Bucks-based Penn Festival, where they'll share a stage with big names such as Feeder, Kaiser Chiefs and Manic Street Preachers.

But there's more!

Jimi elaborated, "We've been lucky enough to be booked for dates at Silverstone racetrack. They're F1 and MotoGP events, which we're really excited about. Plus a slot at Olney River Festival, as well as a gig at the fantastic MK11 live music venue."

So any time for recording at all?

"Definitely!" Neil said.

"We're working on six new tracks, to follow up our EP."

So these gigs are a perfect place to share the new tunes?

"Yes," added Paul. "We're hoping to release an album next year too."

So there's a plan?

"There's always a plan and we have big plans!" winked Steve.

Well, with such a great start to the band's career, I think their big plans certainly puts them in 'pole position' for an even bigger 2019.